



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2020
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding (remotely) and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Shoshana Kun, Seat A (remotely)
June Rogers, Seat B (remotely)
Valerie Therrien, Seat C
Aaron Gibson, Seat D (remotely)
Lonny Marney, Seat E
Jim Clark, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer (remotely)
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (remotely)
Richard Sweet, Acting Police Chief
Tod Chambers, Fire Chief (remotely)
Ron Dupee, Acting Deputy Police Chief (remotely)
Geoff Coon, Assistant Fire Chief (remotely)

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly led the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly read the proclamation that he jointly signed with Mayor Ward and Mayor Welch, declaring the month of November to be Stars of Gold Readers School Engagement Month.

Mayor Matherly recognized Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) Battalion Chief Greg Taylor for his 25 years of service to the City of Fairbanks and his upcoming retirement. He continued by providing some background on his experience and family. Mayor Matherly noted that Mr. Taylor

will be continuing his service to the community through his work as Associate Professor of Paramedicine at UAF's Community and Technical College. **Mayor Matherly** stated that it had been an honor working with Mr. Taylor and wished him the best in his retirement. He asked FFD Chief Tod Chambers if he had any further comments.

Chief Chambers stated that Mr. Taylor's retirement had caught the department off guard when they learned he had accepted the teaching position. Chief Chambers continued that he had worked in the field with Mr. Taylor for the past twenty-five years, and his presence would be missed; however, his training of future paramedics will be appreciated. Chief Chambers ended by stating that the department wished the best for Mr. Taylor and his future success.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mayor Matherly called for in-person public comment and, hearing none, declared in-person Citizens' Comments closed. Citizens comments over Zoom were heard next.

George Thomas – Mr. Thomas explained that he is transferring to UAF for his senior year of his bachelor's degree, and for his senior thesis he would like to work on bringing the U.S. Olympics to Fairbanks, Alaska. Mr. Thomas stated that he had already performed extensive research on the topic and believed it would be best to include Anchorage in the discussion. He noted that in 1992 Anchorage came in third for the bid to host the Olympics. Mr. Thomas stated he believes that with the combination of Anchorage and Fairbanks, there would be enough infrastructure to support hosting the Olympics in the future. He stated that perhaps in 2030 they could compete for the location against Salt Lake City. He stated that he would like to begin the process by asking for feedback from the Council and suggested the formation of an ad-hoc committee. Mr. Thomas ended by sharing his experience with city government and thanking the Council for their time.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Thomas for his attendance and verified she had received his previous communications. **Ms. Rogers** then asked Mr. Thomas about his experience in coordinating large events. Mr. Thomas spoke to his experience in bringing the Special Olympics to his constituency in Van Ives, CA in 2015. In addition, L.A. had just won the bid for 2028, and he had been working to ensure one of the events would happen in the Van Ives community. Mr. Thomas stated he believes the place to start is with an ad-hoc committee that is devoted to the purpose of bringing the Olympics to Alaska. He stated that he had been in contact with the elected officials in Anchorage, and they are very supportive. Mr. Thomas explained that if the bid for 2030 was lost, most of the paperwork would already be complete for another attempt in the future. He indicated that he would serve in whatever capacity the Council would request of him. **Ms. Rogers** thanked him for his enthusiasm and shared that she had been involved in community committees for the past 40 years; she stated that events of such size can be very consuming. **Ms. Rogers** stated that she was not sure it was something the Council could commit to at this time but appreciated Mr. Thomas' testimony. She suggested that he contact the Public Works Director, Jeff Jacobson, who has been involved in these types of events.

Mayor Matherly thanked Ms. Rogers for her input and suggested that Mr. Thomas also look into the Arctic Winter Games.

Victor Buberge, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberge stated that he was still concerned about snow removal. He noted that he had seen Public Works employees hand-sweeping round-abouts this previous fall

on 22nd Avenue and compared the process to those used in Indonesia and Thailand, where he had previously lived. Mr. Buberger stated that if the City could afford the time to hand-sweep the streets, they should be able to get some equipment out clearing the roads and sidewalks. He continued to state that the downtown streets resembled driving on a rocky, dry riverbed due to the disgusting lack of snow removal. Mr. Buberger suggested that the City consider service areas, such as the Borough has, and have private industry do the work in a timely fashion, possibly saving a lot of time and money for the City. He mentioned that he had seen the sidewalk snow removal unit being used outside of the school on Lathrop Street last week, but it was not used for the entire sidewalk. Mr. Buberger commented that it is likely because Union boys do the work the slowest and get paid the highest. He restated his offer to operate the sidewalk machine at his own cost in time and fuel to help the citizens who have to walk in the City.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider stated that there were no more comments to be heard from the Zoom audience and proceeded to read the following written comment into record:

David Song, Juneau, AK – Mr. Song wrote on the behalf of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG) to advocate for the inclusion of members from the LGBTQIA+ community, communities with disabilities, and armed forces personnel on the City’s hiring committee for Police Chief. Mr. Song continued by reminding the Council that in the past five-and-a-half years, law enforcement officials in Alaska have killed 43 individuals. He stated that one Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) officer had been involved in three separate officer-involved shootings that ended in fatalities and that Acting Chief Sweet had also been part of a contentious officer-involved shooting. Mr. Song added that police violence is a systematic, nationwide problem that has gone unaddressed due to the opaque nature of police departments around the United States. He stated that it is critical that the hiring decision not be taken lightly, and that the exclusion of the before-mentioned community groups is a significant oversight. Mr. Song ended by reminding the Council that it was within their power to rectify this situation by expanding the existing committee.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens’ Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly stated that there was no update to provide to the Council regarding IBEW Labor Negotiations and removed it from Executive Session.

Mr. Marney pulled Ordinance No. 6145 from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to the APPROVAL of the Agenda, as Amended, and hearing none, so ORDERED.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Consent Agenda, as Amended, into the record.

SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Applications for Renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Premises Address
270	Lavelle's Taphouse	Beverage Dispensary	Lavelle's Taphouse, LLC	414 2nd Avenue, Suite B
4488	RJ's Lounge & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Roy J Stoltz	3450 Airport Way
5767	Denny's	Restaurant/ Eating Place	D of Alaska, Inc.	1929 Airport Way

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Applications for Renewal.

Mayor Matherly called for public comment and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Mayor Matherly asked AC Sweet to speak to the incidents reported at Denny's. AC Sweet responded that there were a number of trespass calls, but it had been determined that the business had done everything they could to resolve the issues prior to contacting the FPD. The calls that came to the FPD were only made after the accused became aggressive towards Denny's staff, and assistance was necessary. AC Sweet concluded that in his research there did not appear to be any calls that were caused directly by the establishment.

Ms. Rogers asked for clarification about the asterisks on the report. AC Sweet responded that he had provided the asterisks at the request of Ms. Therrien to indicate calls made to the FPD as a result of the business directly, and not those made due to the close physical proximity to the business.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly stated that he loves the holidays and hoped that everyone is enjoying the season. He shared his excitement in bringing 2020 to a close. **Mayor Matherly** mentioned the upcoming release of the COVID-19 vaccine but added that he does not have much information at this time in regard to the application and availability; he stated he believes it may be available to some as early as Christmas this year. He spoke to Mr. Song's letter and reminded the Council that it is one of many they have already received. **Mayor Matherly** made clear that nine members for the Police Chief hiring panel was his limit and that it was already in place. Additionally, he indicated that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) would be meeting the following evening, and he had already made his panelist selection from their nominations. He stated that the individual he chose to represent the FDC also represents many different community groups, including the LGBTQ community. **Mayor Matherly** stated that the Police Chief position will be offered internally starting on December 14, 2020. He went on to mention an article in the newspaper regarding the Fairbanks Emergency Communication Center (FECC) and thanked the Council for their attention

to the needs of the department. **Mayor Matherly** made note of the good job that Dispatcher Julie Ritchie had done in her interview with the media and invited the listeners to apply online for the FECC open positions. **Mayor Matherly** expressed his respect for Deb Hickok in light of her retirement announcement from Explore Fairbanks. He continued to share that while they were not always on the same side of an issue, he could not deny the tens of millions of dollars Ms. Hickok's team had brought into the Fairbanks community. **Mayor Matherly** stated that this winter has been hard with the early snowstorms and with the Public Works department being hit early with COVID-19 cases. He stated the department had been working very hard to get caught up, putting up signs prior to snow removal and working through the City as they can. He commented that sometimes vehicles are impounded and complaints are made. **Mayor Matherly** gave his assurances to the Council that the complaints are addressed every time and, often, he does so personally. He went on to thank Public Works and every City employee for their hard work during this long and difficult year. **Mayor Matherly** ended by reminding the Council of the upcoming meetings for the end of the year, thanked them for their teamwork, and mentioned that the budget is also on the agenda for the evening.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgment.

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Ms. Rogers stated that Mayor Matherly had already addressed most of the comments made and added that Deb Hickok has been one of the treasures of the community for decades. **Ms. Rogers** shared that she had spent a lot of time with Ms. Hickok through their mutual attendances at City Council meetings as they served on different committees. **Ms. Rogers** continued by emphasizing Ms. Hickok's integrity, stating she is a tremendous asset to any community in which she resides. She ended by expressing her admiration for Ms. Hickok's work ethic and said she would be missed greatly.

Mayor Matherly interjected to correct his earlier statement about Ms. Hickok, as she is resigning, not retiring. He also added that he meant to comment on the importance of masking-up and practicing social distancing.

Ms. Therrien wished Mr. Taylor good luck at UAF Community and Technical College. In regard to Mr. Thomas' comments regarding the winter Olympics, she stated the Council should think big and that it is an interesting idea.

Mr. Clark shared that he was residing in Salt Lake City when the Olympics came, and it brought tremendous things to the Salt Lake area, wonderful things that stayed a part of the community. He agreed that it is an interesting idea, and he is excited to talk more about it.

Mr. Marney stated that he is impressed with Mayor Matherly and the way he runs the City and the meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4944, as Amended – A Resolution Stating the City of Fairbanks Legislative and Capital Priorities for 2021. Introduced by Mayor Matherly and Council Members Kun, Therrien, and Rogers.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4944, as Amended.

Mayor Matherly called for public comment and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by striking the word “increase” and replacing it with “maintain” in item #5.

Ms. Therrien stated that the Legislative Committee had met last week and determined that an increase was not necessary at this time due to the budget and the SART testing cost.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY STRIKING THE WORD “INCREASE” AND REPLACING IT WITH “MAINTAIN” IN ITEM #5 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Therrien, Kun, Marney, Gibson, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by changing item #4 to read, “That the Legislature use a balanced approach in addressing the deficit and continuing fiscal challenges by implementing new funding sources and cost savings measures for State expenditures.”

Ms. Therrien stated that her original amendment did not include the language from the AML resolution, and this amendment reflects her original intent and is supported by the legislative committee.

Mayor Matherly requested Mr. Meeks to speak to this amendment and the overview section.

Mr. Meeks asked the Council to look at the overview section added to the attachment. He stated the overview is necessary because the State and City are six months apart on their fiscal calendar, and it is a reminder to the State Legislature that the City is unable to make changes halfway through its fiscal year.

Ms. Therrien asked that the overview and supporting document be discussed separately.

Mr. Gibson questioned item #4 as a position for the City to take given AML has already done so. He continued by saying he was unsure if it was the Council’s responsibility to tell the Legislature how to do their job.

Ms. Rogers stated that the statement was very practical and helps the Legislature to understand the City’s position while supporting AML’s work.

Mr. Clark had questions about the attached list directing the State Legislature on how to fulfill the request in item number four; he indicated that he may not be in support of it.

Mayor Matherly stated he is mixed on the discussions around the Legislative priorities, and his natural desire to keep it focused on Fairbanks. He stated he believes that reiterating others' priorities is neither harmful nor helpful, but it is not necessary.

Ms. Therrien stated that the City would be unable to maintain PERS or a baseline for community assistance without the State Legislature.

Ms. Rogers stated that while it might not be necessary, it is a very short and sweet statement.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING ITEM #4 TO READ, "THAT THE LEGISLATURE USE A BALANCED APPROACH IN ADDRESSING THE DEFICIT AND CONTINUING FISCAL CHALLENGES BY IMPLEMENTING NEW FUNDING SOURCES AND COST SAVINGS MEASURES FOR STATE EXPENDITURES" AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Clark, Gibson, Kun, Marney

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND the Attachment to Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, to add an Overview section to read, "Overview: Unlike the State of Alaska, the City of Fairbanks is on a fiscal calendar year. When the State of Alaska decides to reduce expenses by cost-shifting to the municipalities, the City is half-way through our budget year. We have few tools available to adjust our budget to meet the State's cost-shifting moves. Understanding and consideration of this fact is important to the City of Fairbanks."

Mayor Matherly asked Mr. Meeks or Ms. Therrien to elaborate on the motion.

Mr. Meeks stated that he thinks the statement is very clear and that the State has made cost-shifting measures in the past that have caught the City off guard. He stated he believes the trend of cost-shifting to the municipalities will continue, and it is important for the State to understand how this affects the municipalities.

Ms. Rogers stated that this is an excellent statement for the City to make, especially in regard to working together to support smaller communities.

Ms. Kun thanked Ms. Therrien for drafting the statement and said it is very to the point.

Ms. Therrien clarified that it was drafted by Mr. Meeks.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY INCLUDING THE OVERVIEW SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Marney, Rogers, Kun, Therrien, Clark

NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND the Attachment to Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by adding the following language as item #5, "Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Funding: Continued State funding is important to maintain medical and social responses to sexual assault."

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING THE LANGUAGE TO #5 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Kun
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND the Attachment to Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by striking the original language detail in item #4 and adding the following:

4. The City of Fairbanks supports a balanced approach to addressing the State of Alaska's deficit and continuing fiscal challenges, including by addressing the following:
 - a. Broad-based taxation (personal and corporate income, sales and property)
 - b. Additional revenue measures tied to use (motor fuel, marijuana, tobacco, alcohol) or resource
 - c. A stable PFD formula consistent with a sustainable draw from the Earnings Reserve
 - d. Potential reductions to the State budget irrespective of fund source
 - e. Negotiating solutions to devolve responsibilities and foster public-private partnerships.

Ms. Therrien wanted to be clear that the first point is not to insist on broad-based taxation; rather, it only asks that the State address it. She added that this is the language used in the AML's priorities. **Ms. Therrien** went on to say that there is discussion about the Governor's budget, including language that would require the municipalities to take on many more responsibilities.

Mr. Clark stated that he disagrees with all the bullet points. He stated that the State knows what they need to do, and if the City tells them what to do, they will suggest broad-based taxation. He stated he did not think it was appropriate for the Council to give the State this type of direction, nor did he believe it was a solution for the bigger problems in Juneau.

Mayor Matherly asked Mr. Clark for clarification on what he was objecting to.

Mr. Clark indicated that he opposed all the bullet points as well as the words, "addressing the following."

Mr. Marney stated that he believes the list was to give the State direction, and this list would help the Legislators to know what the City of Fairbanks is looking for.

Mr. Gibson stated he was not sure that the Legislature needs the Council's direction. He continued to say that the Legislature knows what they need to do, and he did not feel it was the Council's place to tell them.

Ms. Kun stated that she thought it was a great list and very clear. She said it was great for the City to be supporting AML. She appreciated item "c" in particular but stated she believes all points are clear, concise, and important to include.

Ms. Rogers stated that the City is part of the AML, and it should not think of AML as an outside entity. She continued to state that she does not agree with Mr. Gibson and Mr. Clark that the State Legislature knows what they need to do and therefore does not need to hear from the City. **Ms. Rogers** stated that in her 40 years of experience with legislators, she has heard repeatedly that they want and need to hear from the local constituencies. She stated that this is a very clear and concise group of statements, and the Council is being polite and brief in an effort to open the door to a conversation.

Mayor Matherly asked Mr. Meeks to comment. Mr. Meeks clarified that the language added by the Council at the previous meeting read, "New State Funding Sources and Cost-Saving Measures." He stated that the language before the Council now is the second draft after going through the Finance Committee. He explained that the first draft, which can be seen in the attachment as red bolded, underlined, and stricken text, reads, "With declining oil revenues, it is important to continue to examine other revenue generating methodologies while maintaining downward pressure on cost growth. The City of Fairbanks encourages the State Legislators to develop solutions on both sides of the budget equation, revenues and expenditures." Mr. Meeks wanted to clarify that the Council can agree to this or not, but the original line has no meat to support it.

Mr. Clark stated that he understands the need for "meat" behind the first phrase. He stated his understanding is that the Council represents the City of Fairbanks, not the AML.

Mayor Matherly stated that the Council should vote on item #4 in its entirety, then discuss amending the paragraph if it is approved.

Ms. Therrien stated that City lobbyist, Yuri Morgan, was included in the conversation, and he was comfortable using the language. She continued by saying that when the Council meets with the Legislature, they can be clear that these are not demands, but requests for consideration. **Ms. Therrien** indicated that the first draft, read by Mr. Meeks, would also be acceptable and more innocuous.

Ms. Kun pointed out that the City Council represents all of the citizens of Fairbanks, yet not all citizens would support all of the bullet points. She stated that together the Council represents the entire community the best they can. She stated she believes there is a significant portion of the community that believes very strongly in broad-based taxation.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY STRIKING THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE DETAIL IN ITEM #4 AND ADDING NEW LANGUAGE [AS STATED ABOVE] AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Therrien, Rogers, Matherly
NAYS: Gibson, Clark, Marney
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND the Attachment to Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by striking the word “our” and replacing with “its” in the overview section.

Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to AMEND the Attachment to Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by striking the language in #4 after “fiscal challenges...”

Mr. Gibson felt that this option strikes a balance by the Council asking the State Legislature to use a balanced approach without telling them how to do it.

Mr. Marney stated he does not want to advocate for new taxes.

Mr. Clark clarified that the “meat” will not need to be added if the sentence ending with “fiscal challenges” remains.

Ms. Rogers stated she could not support this change because she felt the previous language was on the right path.

Ms. Therrien stated she will not support the amendment because she believes the Council does need to ask Legislators to address those five issues.

Mayor Matherly stated that he does not think the list needs to be included, but he does not see it being harmful if it is.

Ms. Therrien reminded the Council that when the Legislature Finance Committee met in Fairbanks to hear testimony regarding funding the state budget and schools, an overwhelming number of the presentations to the Legislature were in support new funding sources.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY STRIKING THE LANGUAGE IN #4 AFTER “FISCAL CHALLENGES...” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Marney, Gibson, Matherly
NAYS: Therrien, Kun, Rogers
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to AMEND the Attachment to Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, by including the original draft language for item #4 that had been stricken: “New State Funding Sources and Cost-Saving Measures: With declining oil revenues, it is important to continue to examine other revenue generating methodologies while maintaining downward pressure on cost growth. The City of Fairbanks encourages the State Legislators to develop solutions on both sides of the budget equation, revenues and expenditures.”

Ms. Therrien indicated that it is very important to have something supporting what the City's position is, and this is the original language that had been discussed previously.

Ms. Rogers asked the Council members who voted to remove the bullet points what the new language, "The City of Fairbanks encourages the State Legislators to develop solutions on both sides of the budget equation, revenues and expenditures," meant.

Mr. Gibson stated he was happy with the currently approved version and would not be supporting the amendment.

Mayor Matherly stated that he preferred the less specific language.

Ms. Rogers indicated that it is still asking the State to seek other revenues.

Mr. Clark stated that he is happy with the currently approved version.

Mr. Meeks reminded the Council that the language presented was simply to support the opening statement and give the paragraph some meat. And because these changes are being made after the document was finalized, it has been much more difficult to coordinate.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, BY INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR ITEM #4 THAT HAD BEEN STRICKEN [AS STATED ABOVE] AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Kun, Marney

NAYS: Clark, Gibson

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien asked for co-sponsors for Resolution No. 4944, as Amended.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider stated that Ms. Kun, Ms. Rogers, and Ms. Therrien are the current sponsors.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4944, as Amended, APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6145 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6145.

Mr. Marney stated that he had questions about the difference between the Mayor's budget recommendation and the one the Council put forth. He continued by asking if the new Chief of Police should have a say in their budget after they are hired.

Mr. Meeks stated that he did not see a difference between the two proposed budgets, and he asked Ms. Bell for confirmation.

Ms. Bell confirmed that there had been no changes between the two budgets in regard to the Police Department.

Mr. Marney indicated he was not looking at the bottom line and only the personnel page, hence the confusion. He went on to ask if the Council should wait on the FPD budget until a new Chief is hired, giving them the advantage of establishing their own budget.

Mayor Matherly explained that the budget is established now, and the Chief of Police position is three or four months away from being filled. He stated that the budget was created with AC Sweet, and, barring other things that might happen, he is considered Chief at this time. He stated that if a new Chief wants to make changes, that could be done through a budget amendment.

Ms. Kun asked if the Captain position is included in the proposed budget. Ms. Bell responded that the Captain position remains outside of the budget.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6145 by adding the Captain position to the FPD budget and defunding two police officer positions.

Ms. Bell indicated that this change would result in a savings of over \$70,000 to the FPD budget.

Mr. Gibson stated that he does not feel a need for a Captain at this point and would like to fill the position of Police Chief prior to making changes. He clarified that he would not be against adding the position in the future but would like input from the new Police Chief first.

Ms. Rogers stated that she has gone back and forth on this many times in previous discussions; however, this is now, and now is when we have the opportunity to work smarter. She stated that the position has been suggested to the Council by those who are in the FPD now, and she will support the amendment.

Ms. Therrien stated she would have preferred to have held public testimony on the budget prior to voting on this amendment, but she is in favor of it. She stated that by having a Captain, sergeants would be back on the street which may help with personnel issues. She stated that it may also help retain an employee who is considering retirement.

Mr. Clark stated that adding this position would make it very difficult to remove in the future, and because of that he is against it.

Mr. Marney expressed concern that it may sound like the City Council is "defunding" the police.

Mr. Meeks pointed out the advantages to this change in positions, including the savings to the budget and the retention of an experienced employee. He stated that this is a temporary change. He stated that the Mayor's Office often changes the structure of the FPD and can do so again in the future. He ended by saying he was struggling to find a reason that it is not a good idea.

Mr. Clark stated that if the Council approves as the position on a temporary basis the Council could get a bad rap if they say no to making it permanent if that is the desire of the new Chief.

Mayor Matherly stated that he did not consider this as "defunding" the police. He explained that this is part of the Council's regular budget process.

Mr. Marney asked if AC Sweet supported this amendment. AC Sweet stated that he does. He explained that within the department there is data to support the idea that adding one position reduces workload by one-third. He stated that currently the workload is on the sergeants, and the Captain position will help relieve that. He stated the Captain position would fill the role of the extra reporting requirements that currently need a lieutenant level position or higher. He explained that the temporary trial is to see if the Captain position will do what they predict, provide someone for the reporting and in-station requirements, and allow the sergeants to do more patrolling.

Mr. Gibson asked for clarification from AC Sweet as to whether the FPD will request to retain the Captain and the two officer positions next year if the position works. AC Sweet stated that it is likely, but that is a discussion for that budget year. He stated that currently there is more of a need for administrative positions, which the department is lacking. He stated he would not like to permanently remove two officer positions, as the City is already low in officers compared to its population. **Mr. Gibson** stated that the City is currently funding 23 positions and asked how the FPD stands in filling the vacancies. AC Sweet stated that there are seven viable recruits currently, but the issues come in when they have to wait months for new officers to attend the Academy. He explained that there is a difference with lateral transfers, as they only require 2-3 weeks of training. He stated the department can only accommodate training three recruits at a time with current staffing levels.

Mayor Matherly stated that he supports the position.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6145 BY ADDING THE CAPTAIN POSITION TO THE BUDGET AND DEFUNDING TWO POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Kun, Marney

NAYS: Clark, Gibson

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6145, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Therrien, Kun, Marney, Gibson, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance 6145, as Amended, ADVANCED to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson shared that he and the Mayor will be attending the upcoming FAST Planning meeting. He continued by pointing out that the Council does support police officers, and one example is the \$20,000 lateral sign-on bonus that was acknowledged on the consent agenda. **Mr. Gibson** congratulated Lt. Amy Davis for her completion of the FPD hiring process. He continued by stating that the one-time bonus is a great tool that the City has to target trained officers to join the police department.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Gibson for acknowledging Ms. Davis. She shared that there is a Diversity Council meeting the following evening and thanked the Mayor for reading the proclamation on the Stars of Gold Readers, a group that she has been working with. She shared many of the groups involved in the committee and the importance of the third-grade reading level.

Ms. Kun stated she met with Explore Fairbanks and repeated that Ms. Hickok is resigning. She stated that the winter tourism is starting to pick up and encouraged the Council to welcome visitors and make them feel at home. **Ms. Kun** wished a Happy Hanukkah to anyone who celebrates. She offered a reminder to those struggling to reach out for help by calling (800) 273-HELP. She asked everyone to drive safely, as the roads are icy. **Ms. Kun** thanked the Native Movement and their work with land acknowledgments. She ended by thanking the Council for the discussions and stated that it has been a great meeting.

Ms. Therrien shared that she had attended her second AML Board of Directors meeting, where there has been an increase in community involvement throughout the state with AML. She shared that AML is concerned about the Governor's budget and the potential cost-shifting to municipalities. She went on to share that the Legislative Committee had met last Thursday where they discussed the City's priorities. She stated that it is very important for those issues to be discussed, and this is the first time the City Council has prioritized increases in revenue or decreases in expenditures. She shared that the Legislative Committee will be meeting again on January 20 at 4:00 p.m. and will be meeting every two weeks until March when meetings will become weekly. **Ms. Therrien** stated that City Lobbyist, Yuri Morgan will be setting up the ZOOM meeting, and the Legislature might be meeting by ZOOM as well.

Mr. Clark stated that he was unable to attend the meeting, but he was excited to have the discussion regarding the budget and the priorities. He thought it was good news for the FPD to have incoming new hires.

Mr. Marney shared how he likes seeing the Christmas lights and décor in the windows and on the streets and stated that it is a good time of year.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Memorandum Regarding Temporary, Part-Time FECC Dispatchers

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Acknowledgement of Payment of Lateral Hire Sign-on Bonus (FPD)

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider reported that new Deputy City Clerk Rochelle Rodak started a week ago and is doing well. She hoped that Council Members would have an opportunity to meet her soon and welcome her to the City of Fairbanks. Clerk Snider reminded the Council that the next Finance Committee meeting was cancelled and that the next meeting would be Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for Legislative Priorities.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR